

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 SS-15 NSC-05 RSC-01 /037 W

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R 241100Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8784

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1931

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TSPA, BU, EEWT, OVIP (POPOV, IVAN)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH CHAIRMAN ZHIVKOV.

REF: A) STATE 231580; B) STATE 231617

1. WE HAVE TWO TELEGRAMS ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES. REF A SAYS PRESIDENT WILL BE ASKED TO SIGN A LETTER TO CHAIRMAN ZHIVKOV WHEN I REPORT THAT BULGARIANS HAVE WORKED OUT THEIR DISPLAY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MOON ROCK. THIS IS FINE. REF B RELATES TO A COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN ZHIVKOV TO PRESIDENT FORD ABOUT "POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES" AND INVITING THE PRESIDENT TO VISIT BULGARIA. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL FOR OUR WORKING RELATIONS IF AN EARLY RESPONSE COULD BE GIVEN TO THAT MESSAGE FROM THE BULGARIAN HEAD OF STATE.

2. OF COURSE I DO NOT RPT NOT RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESIDENT ACCEPT ZHIVKOV'S INVITATION TO COME TO BULGARIA. INSTEAD, HIS RESPONSE MIGHT CONTAIN THESE ELEMENTS: (A) EXPRESSION OF SATISFACTION THAT RELATIONS WITH BULGARIA ARE DEVELOPING IN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL MANNER; (B) PLEASURE AT RECENT VISIT TO US BY VICE PREMIER AND POLITBURO MEMBER IVAN POPOV; (C) REGRET THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR POPOV TO DELIVER ZHIVKOV'S LETTER PERSONALLY; (D) APPRECIATION FOR ZHIVKOV'S INVITATION AND ASSURANCE THAT IT WILL BE BORNE IN MIND IN CONNECTION WITH ANY VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT TO THIS AREA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PRESIDENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SOFIA01931
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740304-0061
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741019/aaaaaqaj.tel
Line Count: 60
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) STATE 231580; B) STATE 231617
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH CHAIRMAN ZHIVKOV.
TAGS: PFOR, TSPA, EEW, OVIP, BU, (POPOV, IVAN), (ZHIVKOV, TODOR), (FORD, GERALD R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005